

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W

----- 056958

R 210544Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3556

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER

USIA WASHDC

AFRTS LOS ANGELES CAL

RUDOZ A/7122D BRS LINDSEY AS GER

OSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9267

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR, US

SUBJ: GOI PROPOSAL FOR JOINT OPERATION OF AFRTS

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 0794 (271208ZJAN75); (B) STATE 077988
(071639ZAPR75); (C) ARMISH/MAAG 030934ZJAN (NOTAL)

1. ON AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS, EMBASSY AND MAAG OFFICERS
MET RECENTLY TO REVIEW PROBLEM POSED BY GOI'S DESIRE TO
EXERCISE CONTROL OVER AFRTS. AMBASSADOR HAS ENDORSED
FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

A. CONTINUED ENGLISH LANGUAGE, AMERICAN-STYLE BROAD-
CASTING IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN PRESERVING MORALE OF OFFICIAL
AND PRIVATE AMERICANS IN IRAN. WITH ANTICIPATED GROWTH
IN OUR COMMUNITY, SUCH BROADCASTING IS INCREASINGLY
IMPORTANT. AS NEW, U.S.-SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
ARE INITIATED OUTSIDE TEHRAN, NATIONWIDE ENGLISH BROAD-
CASTING WILL BECOME MORE AND MORE DESIRABLE AS A MEANS
OF ATTRACTING AND HOLDING U.S. TECHNICIANS IN IRAN.

B. GOI SEEMS DETERMINED FOR NATIONALISTIC REASONS
TO END AFRTS BROADCASTING AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.

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BECAUSE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IRANIANS DO NOT BELIEVE

THEY CAN HANDLE ENGLISH RADIO AND TV BROADCASTING, THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO HAVE AFRTS CONTINUE UNDER REAL OR SYMBOLIC COVER OF NIRT JURISDICTION.

C. WITH GROWTH IN RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION HERE WE CAN EXPECT RISE IN IRANIAN XENOPHOBIA, PARTICULARLY AMONG STUDENTS AND BAZAAR AND RELIGIOUS CLASSES. TO SOME EXTENT, MISSION'S MORE DIFFICULT SECURITY SITUATION REFLECTS THESE CHANGING ATTITUDES. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST THAT WE LOWER THE LEVEL OF U.S. VISIBILITY. AFRTS IS ONE OF MORE PROMINENT SIGNS OF U.S. PRESENCE IN IRAN.

D. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT USAF REGULATIONS WILL NOT PERMIT EITHER REAL OR SYMBOLIC IRANIAN CONTROL OVER AFRTS. REACTION OF CONGRESS AND U.S. PRESS WOULD PREDICTABLY BE NEGATIVE.

E. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE IF SUBJECT IS AGAIN RAISED WE SHOULD INFORM IRANIANS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(1) WE SHARE GOI'S POSITION THAT AMERICAN-STYLE RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO IRAN'S DESIRE TO ATTRACT THE FOREIGN ENGLISH-SPEAKING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS NEEDED FOR IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(2) WE ALSO UNDERSTAND GOI'S VIEW THAT NIRT SHOULD EVENTUALLY OPERATE A STATION OFFERING SUCH PROGRAMMING. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ESTABLISHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICE WILL BE DIFFICULT OPERATION.

(3) WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE AFRTS BROADCASTING CONTINUE AS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED UNTIL TIME WHEN NIRT CAN BROADCAST SUBSTITUTE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. UNDER OUR RULES, WE ARE UNABLE TO AUTHORIZE JOINT AFRTS-NIRT OPERATIONS.

(4) SHOULD GOI WISH, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST NIRT IN CONTACTING PRIVATE U.S. CONCERNS WHICH ARE QUALIFIED TO ADVISE OR MANAGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROADCASTING IN IRAN.

2. WE ARE AWARE OF PROPOSAL THAT WE ASK GOI TO ALLOW US TO CONTINUE WITH CLOSED-CIRCUIT RADIO BROADCASTING FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. ATTACHING THIS CONDITION AT THIS STAGE COULD UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATE PRESENT DISCUSSIONS. WE BELIEVE DECISION AND APPROVAL ON MATTER SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFERRED UNTIL NIRT STATES IT IS PREPARED TO REPLACE AFRTS. PROPOSAL COULD BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT THAT TIME. NIRT REPLACEMENT OF AFRTS, WE BELIEVE, COULD BE VERY DISTANT EVENT.

3. UNLESS THERE ARE OBJECTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, WE WOULD CONVEY FOREGOING POSITION TO GOI ONLY IF SUBJECT IS RAISED AGAIN.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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